

**INDEPENDENT** **The Labor Advocate** **NON-PARTISAN**  
A PAPER FOR ALL WHO TOIL  
Official Organ of The Building Trades Council of Cincinnati and Vicinity  
ISSUED WEEKLY

W. E. MYERS, Editor  
Business Office, 20-21 Thoms Building. Phone, Canal 5511

Communications should be on hand not later than Wednesday to insure publication.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR IN ADVANCE

Entered at the postoffice at Cincinnati O., as second-class mail matter.



CINCINNATI, OHIO, JANUARY 1, 1916.

**REMEMBER**

The friendly business firms who are patronizing the Labor Advocate and endeavoring to show their good will and sincerity through the columns of this paper, the official journal, deserve the patronage of loyal members of organized labor, and will be remembered by them on every shopping trip.

**A FORECAST.**

**American Labor in 1916.**

It is only natural that labor leaders, business men, manufacturers and financiers should at this time be casting anxious eyes on the future. The condition of American business and finance during the coming year is attracting the attention of every man of importance who is engaged in commercial life in the United States, and many are even looking further into the future, some going so far ahead as 1920 in their efforts to discover something which will bring about a reversal of the present condition of commercial activity.

The horizon of the future is being searched with the most powerful glasses. The problems now confronting the world are vast; more vast and extensive than at any time in past history. When will the great war which is now involving Europe in conflict come to an end and what will be its direct results upon American financial and business conditions and progress?

The realignment of existing borders of the nations now engaged in conflict does not so much concern America and American conditions as does the industrial conditions which will come when peace is declared. There appears to be no cause for alarm that this country will become involved in this conflict. Neither side of the contending forces can afford to have this country drawn into the European conflict, and we are, for the present at least, immune from all fear on this score. For this reason the American people may, with reasonable assurance, look forward to some years of peace. The conquering nations of Europe will be so completely exhausted that years will elapse before a possible attack upon us could be undertaken. This fact will give us ample time in which to prepare, although this process of preparation should not be delayed.

At the present time practically all American industries are working to capacity, and labor appears to be employed almost to the total capacity of the present population to supply brain and brawn. When the war ends this condition will hardly be changed. The nations of Europe will require the services of every able-bodied man in the work of rebuilding and rehabilitation, and emigration will undoubtedly be restricted, if not by attractive wages, then by government action; and there does not appear to be the slightest reason to fear a general exodus to this country. Already this condition is being reflected by prohibition of emigration from French- and English-speaking countries, and as time goes on the restrictions already made to keep men at home will be tightened. Europe will require the services of more men when the war is over than are required at this time.

Far from hurting American industrial conditions, the ending of the war will bring about an even greater demand for American products. Peace will mean a generally improved condition of European labor; higher wages, with consequent higher cost of production. Such countries as France and Russia will be modernized by the installation of up-to-date methods and machinery. There will be a tremendous shortage in the available supply of men for many years to come in all of the nations now engaged in war, and it would not, by any means, be surprising to see better labor conditions—that is, higher wages—in Europe within the next few years than those which now prevail in America.

Each of the nations now at war will be forced to immediately commence the work of reconstruction and modernization. Women will be called upon to perform the labor done by men in the past, and machinery will be needed to make this change possible. Already European agents are in this country arranging for deliveries of this machinery as far ahead as 1920, and there is every prospect that even with the close of the war the demand for arms and ammunition will continue for many years to come. All shops now engaged in the manufacture of these materials of war have contracts which will keep them busy for years to come.

The American farmer has enjoyed many years of great prosperity, the year just ending being the best in history. Practically all products of the farm mean cash, especially such as is shipped abroad. Should the coming year be lean in this regard, a contingency which is hardly possible for the country at large, there would be no great reaction on that account. There is hardly a possibility but that we will be able to produce all which we will require for home consumption both of food and clothing.

Capital and Labor in the United States have reached a basis of understanding which practically eliminates the possibility of large industrial disturbances in future. The man with money must have the men who labor, and history has taught both that one is useless without the other. The employer of today does not regard labor as a chattel which shall be bought at the lowest possible price, while labor has learned to be more appreciative of the men who supply the money. This condition is due almost entirely to the work of labor organizations and to the men who, many years ago, undertook first to show labor what is its due and through following years worked out the present system of mutual understanding which is proving so satisfactory to the employer and employee alike.

The prosperity of the American people of all classes during the next year, and during many years to come, appears to be assured. The country is entirely self-sustaining, and regardless of the continuation of the war, we will suffer little inconvenience and less loss so long as our country is not involved in external difficulties. It appears to be the plain duty of each American, regardless of nationality, to be purely American, absolutely neutral and without regard to partisan politics, to accord the most determined support to the National Government in its efforts to keep our country free of foreign entanglements.

American labor never occupied so advantageous a position as that which it holds today. The fear of cheap European competition, either in labor or the products of labor, appears to be mythical in the extreme. Our present supply of labor will be taxed to the limit to keep up with the demand for our products, and European labor will be needed at home during the ten years following a restoration of peace, and will be able to produce little which can be spared by the various countries.

Let each American workman pull for peace in Europe, if he can do so without taking sides or drawing this country into the conflict which has engulfed our brothers over the sea; but while deploring the conditions existing over there, let no man fail to remember that we would not be of material assistance to either side unless we completely destroy the great business which is now coming to us, and even then we could hardly hope to bring relief to those who are suffering most—the men at the front and the women and children at home.

Let us all work most earnestly in an honest effort to take full advantage of the conditions which now confront the world. If nothing now unforeseen occurs, American labor is now entering upon its greatest era of prosperity; a prosperity which will continue long after the year 1916 has passed into history and after Europe has resumed normal conditions. The days of cheap European labor and European competition have passed, and will not return during the next twenty-five years, if ever.

**GOOD-BYE, MR. HOLMES.**

With the retirement of John R. Holmes from the Directorship of the City Safety Department at noon, January 1st, the city will lose the services of one of the most valuable and at the same time modest and unobtrusive men who ever entered public life in Cincinnati.

Mr. Holmes has proven to be one of the most efficient public officials in the history of our city, and his place will be hard to fill. He leaves the public service with the good will of every man who has the real interest of the city at heart.

**DR. HARMON THINKS LONGVIEW IS ALL RIGHT.**

Superintendent Frank M. Harmon of Longview Insane Asylum is reported to have protested against the report of committee sent down from Columbus to investigate the affairs of that semi-penal institution. There is little wonder that Mr. Harmon should protest, but it is only fair to serve notice that the people are beginning to realize that this hospital for the weak-minded of the county is but a prison for those who are unfortunate. Mr. Harmon will do well to take the people into his confidence, as these same people can not be fooled all the time.

**NO POLITICS WITH FRIEDLANDER.**

The announcement of Mr. Friedlander, the new Director of Public Safety, that he will retain Chiefs Copelan and Bunker in their present positions at the heads of the Police and Fire Departments, shows sound judgment on the part of Mr. Friedlander, and justifies the opinion already formed that the new Director is not going to allow politics to play any part in his administration.

**WE SHOULD WORRY.**

Once again it is reported from Amsterdam that the Kaiser is a very sick man. Berne, Switzerland, reports Prince Von Buelow as being engaged in establishing a world-wide demand for peace, and King Alfonso as having declined to join the triple entente. From Rome comes the report that the Pope has refused to allow his great influence to be used in any but a moral way, and from Hot Springs comes the report that President Wilson is "incommunicado." What next, O Lord, what next!

Hotel clerks, in their convention now being held in this city, have decided to "have the law" on deadbeats. If this rule is enforced, it will result in the immediate imprisonment of at least twenty-five per cent of the membership.

Another Ford Peace delegate has fallen by the wayside, and Mrs. Inez Milholland Boissevain, of New York City, has declared the entire thing a failure and withdrawn from further participation.

**A \$10.00 Bill**

Installs

**Gas in Your Furnace**

We know you will enjoy its heat, convenience, and cleanliness, therefore make you this

**LIBERAL OFFER**

Should you for any cause become dissatisfied by Feb. 1st, 1916, we will remove the connections and give you back your TEN.

**Union Gas and Electric Co.**

Fourth and Plum Sts.

**MEDALLION WHISKEY**

Capital \$1,000,000 Resources over \$5,000,000  
**Second National Bank**  
Ninth and Main Streets  
3 Percent Interest on Savings

**BECKER BROS. CO.**  
INCORPORATED  
Main Store and Office: 942 Monmouth Street, Newport, Ky.  
Phones: South 2957, 1169  
Dealers in Choice Meats  
Manufacturers of all kinds of Sausages  
COVINGTON STORE: 1048 Madison Ave. Phone, South 3644  
NEWPORT BRANCH: S. E. Cor. 7th and Patterson Sts. Phone, South 2649-Y  
203 W. 6th Street CINCINNATI, O. Phones, Canal 5011, 5012

Telephones, Canal 4395 and 4396  
**RICHTER & CO.**  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
SUPERIOR BRASS GOODS  
20 E. Ninth St. Cincinnati, O.

**Union-Made HATS**  
**Rielag**  
1120 Main Street

**USE JOHNSTON'S DULL KOTE PAINT.** It dries perfectly flat without lustre, washed and cleaned like tile. Color folder free. Buy it from your dealer, or

**THE R. F. JOHNSTON PAINT CO.,** Pearl and Main Sts., Cincinnati, O.

**HIGHER WAGES FOR MACHINISTS.**

Cincinnati.—The brewers' board of trade has raised wages 2½ cents an hour for all machinists employed in local breweries affiliated to the board. The old agreement expired August 14 and the new rate will apply from that date.